

AUG 20 2012

... This is a Public Comment For the Wright Petition CC Docket #96-12800 Mail Room

Dear Chairman Genachowski,

I am writting in reference of the high cost of prision phone. It has and is affecting my family and I real badly. because of the high cost of prision phone I am unable to communicate with my family but only approx. every three months because I can not afford to pay for the high cost phones in prision. It is really affecting us real bad and I am depress all of the time because I can not talk to my family. Please help us!

Thank You in advance,
Elmer Warfield
Elmer Warfield

"This is a public comment for the Wright
Petition" (cc Docket #96-128)

Received & Inspected

AUG 20 2012

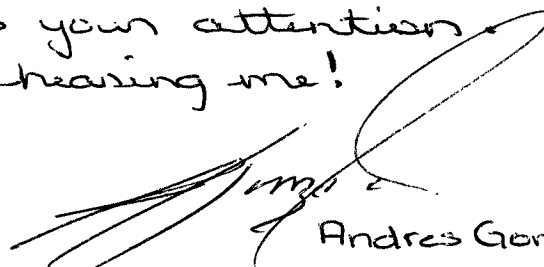
FCC Mail Room

Dear, Chairman Genachowski

I just wanted to bring it to your attention of the high cost of prisoner telephone calls. I know that the Michigan Dept. of Corrections is finding ways to make money to pay the high paid correction officers salaries, and keep the prisons going. They are raising prices up on everything, store, food, phone calls, and other personal items.

It use to cost me to call my children in Houston, Texas \$1.⁸⁰ per 15 minute call. Now they raise the prices and changed phone services, it is costing me now \$3.⁸⁰ per 15 minute call. I make just about \$8.⁰⁰ per month, and you have to buy a \$10.⁰⁰, or more phone card, nothing less, at a time to be able to call your family. I have four children, and a grand-son, and I can't talk to them as I want to, can't afford it anymore.

I don't know if you could do anything about it, but I wanted to bring it to your attention. Thank you for hearing me!


Andres Gonzalez

AUG 20 2012

FCC Mail Room

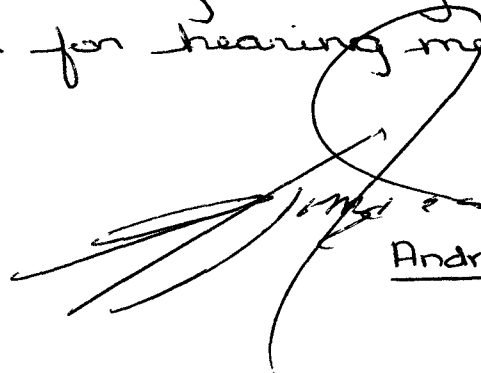
8-12-12

Dear "Chairman"

I am writing you this letter to it to your attention of the high-cost of prisoners telephone calls. I know that the Michigan Dept of Corrections is finding ways to make money to pay the high-paid correction officers salaries. They are raising prices up on everything, stores, food, phone calls, and other personal items.

It use to cost me to call my children in Houston, Texas \$1.⁸⁰ per 15 minutes call. Now they raise the price, it is costing me \$3.⁸⁰ per 15 minutes call. I make just about \$8.⁰⁰ per month, and you have to buy a \$10.⁰⁰, or more phone card, nothing less at a time, to be able to call your family. I have four children, and now a grand-father, and I can't talk to them as I want to, can't afford it anymore.

I don't know if you could do anything about it, but I did wanted to bring it to your attention. Thank you for hearing me!

Andres Gonzales

This is a public comment for the WRIGHT PETITION (CC Docket #96-128)

Chairman Julius Genachowski
Federal Communications Commission
Public Comment
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Received & Inspected

AUG 20 2012

FCC Mail Room

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

I'm writing to ask that you act on the WRIGHT petition to cap inmate telephone rates and stop the exploitation of prisoners and their loved ones.

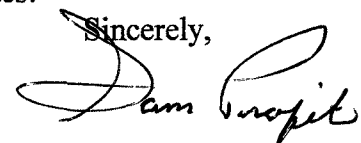
I am serving time in the Michigan Department of Correction. Since coming to prison, I have tried to remain in close contact with my family and friends, but with each passing year it becomes more difficult. Despite publicly trumpeting the benefits of prisoners remaining in close contact with their families, the self serving policies and actions by the MDOC are continuing to tear at the very fabric of these bonds.

The two most important and critical ways for a prisoner to keep in contact with his family comes through visits and telephone calls. For most families, including mine, making the trip to visit is a rare occurrence. When you consider the bad economic times, and that most of these visitors themselves are struggling near the margins, the cost of making the trip to visit is prohibitive. Add to this that the MDOC has reduced the amount of days a prisoner can get visits, and restricted the number of visitors an inmate is allowed to see, it's not surprising to see the number of visits being reduced by 70%.

This leaves the telephone as the main lifeline for a majority of prisoners. Rather than making this critical service more convenient, the MDOC has chosen instead to exploit this service for profit. They, along with predatory telephone providers, have colluded to extort and target those who can least afford it. Of the average \$3.25 charged for a 15 minute call, \$2.50 goes directly into the pockets of the MDOC and telephone provider.

The MDOC claims it needs its share to shore up its budget. Prisoners and their families should not be charged outrageous rates to support prison budgets, that burden should be borne by the entire tax base. As for the telephone provider, they get a 30 % cut of the overcharge. Remember, the telephone provider has already built in their cost and profit margins for providing the actual telephone service. Public Communication Services is Michigan's current provider and they are making more money from administering this slush fund than they are from providing the actual inmate telephone service.

It seems one of the functions of our Federal Communications Commission is to protect the consumer from predatory behavior, and if this doesn't qualify for that protection, then I don't know what would. Please put a stop to this. Cap the rates!

Sincerely,


Chairman, Julius Genachowski
Federal Communications Commission
Public Comments
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

August 16, 2012

Received & Inspected

AUG 20 2012

RE: Wright Petition (CC Docket #96-128)

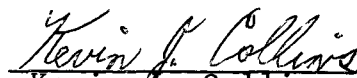
FCC Mail Room

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

This is a public comment concerning Wright Petition- CC Docket #96-128 on prisoners charged cost (30¢ per minute) for calling my folks. The prison pretty much ~~on~~ purchases these minutes for 2¢ a minute and makes .28¢ per minute off of our calls. That's not including the 3¢ per call they charge us for the call not going through. We are not even allowed to hear if the other party is accepting or rejecting our calls. Due to the fact the computer at this facility shields prisoners from hearing if the call is fully sent or accepted. We are still charged the 3¢ per call due to using the computer system.

Revenues generated at this facility are almost over a million dollars. The prison clearly profits off of all these monies they make from excessive telephone cost. There was a lawcourt case challenging the expense prison officials could charge prisoners per minute. Maine Dept. of Corrections v. Public Utilities Commission, 968 A.2d 1047, 2009 ME 40. This lawcourt pretty much sided with penal agency that P.U.C. could not govern who charged what cost. Legislation should monitor how low income families are burdened to keep in contact with their incarcerated inmates due to extensive cost per minute they are charged.

At least these profits should be invested into re-entry programs and stop prisoners from chronic substance abuse or their addictions.


Kevin J. Collins
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